

"The Rookery" No. 12-14 Summer Place
Fort Leavenworth
Leavenworth County
Kansas

HABS No. **KANS-7**

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
120 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

"THE ROOKERY"

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Street Address: No. 12-14, Summer Place, Leavenworth, Ft. Leavenworth,
Kansas

Present Owner: U.S. Government

Present Occupant: Officers Quarters (2 units)

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: This building, the oldest surviving at Fort Leavenworth, is typical of frontier military residences and was once the home of Andrew H. Reeder, first governor of the Kansas Territory.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:
U. S. Government
2. Date of erection: c.1834 (ref. McDonald, Marie and Hyle, Dorothy, The Illustrated Guide Fort Leavenworth and Vicinity, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 1955, p. 24)
3. Architect, builder, suppliers, etc.: No information.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.:
A plan of Cantonment Leavenworth of 1828 shows the foundation walls complete (Kansas State Historical Historical Society, The Kansas Historical Quarterly, Vol XV, Topeka, Kansas, 1947, p. 352).
5. Notes on alterations and additions:
The building was originally proposed in brick but was completed in stone (Ibid., p. 352). The building has been stuccoed and a small extension was built in 1879 on the north. (McDonald and Hyle, op.cit., p.24)
6. Important Old Views Listed:
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Patch Community Library, a collection of photostats from the National Archives, Washington, D. C. (collected by Col. Parker, Office of Post Information, Ft. Leavenworth).

- a. "Plan of Barracks" for six companies of Dragoons and four of Infantry to be erected at Ft. Leavenworth, 1837, scale 50'=1" (shows floor plan).
- b. "Plan of Ft. Leavenworth", n.d. (1837 ?) no scale (shows floor plan).
- c. "Plan of Ft. Leavenworth", ("after 1834, prior to 1836" per Col. Parker)--(shows floor plans and elevations).
- d. "Quarters at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas" - 2 sheets, August 1866, scale 32'=1".
- e. "Map of Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas" - c. 1855, no scale. (shows floor plan)
- f. Plan, no title, no scale, 1839.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure

Before this building was completed it was listed on an 1828 plan of the Cantonment Leavenworth as "Commanding Officers Quarters". Later it was listed as "Officers Quarters" while No. 20-22 Sumner Place was listed as the Commanding Officers Quarters. This was the home of Governor Andrew H. Reeder in 1854, when Leavenworth was temporarily designated as the capital of the Kansas Territory. Mr. Reeder was the first Governor.

C. Likely Sources not yet Investigated:

National Archives, Washington, D. C.
Old Army Section and Public Buildings Service.
Leavenworth County Historical Society, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Prepared by J. C. Maffsinger date 7/58

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: This building, although modified, is a typical example of permanent military post architecture of the 1830's.
2. Condition: The building is in excellent condition and is well maintained.

B. Exterior:

1. Foundation: Native limestone.
2. Wall Construction: Native limestone (now covered over with stucco).
3. Porches: The front porch runs across the entire west facade of the building and is one story high with wooden columns of Tuscan Order and a cornice. A wooden railing fills in between the columns. The rear porch (probably not original) is a very simple design in wood and one story high. Both porches are screened in.
4. Chimneys: There are six brick chimneys (in pairs).
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Original wood frames and paneled doors with simple moldings.
 - b. Windows: Pegged wood construction, sash type. No shutters. Some of the glass may be original.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape - Hipped with recent covering of tin.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Dentils and moldings in wood painted white.
 - c. Dormers: None.

C. Interiors:

1. Floor Plan: There are eight rooms in the basement which are said to have been the kitchen and the maid's quarters. The main floor has eight rooms, the use of which now probably has been changed, and there is said to be three rooms in the attic. An addition on the north has a hall, stairway, and a few small rooms.
2. Stairways: The stairways have probably been altered in the course of various remodelings.
3. Flooring: Most of the floors have been resurfaced (cork) or replaced.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Much of it seems to have been replastered and painted.
5. Floorways and Doors: Several doors seem to be from remodeling, but some may be original.
6. Trim: A simple (probably original) molding was used.
7. Hardware: Most of the hardware seems to be modern.
8. Lighting: No original lighting remains.
9. Heating: Fireplaces were in every main room. Steam heating has now been installed.

PART III. OTHER

A. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The site faces the parade ground on a small level corner lot, and the building faces west.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks: Modern concrete sidewalks to front and back doors.
5. Landscaping: A few trees exist on the site.

Prepared by J. L. Naffziger date 7/58